

TO: Prospective J-1 Visa Waiver Employers/Sponsors

FROM: Alvin Harrion, Division Director II, Office of Primary Care Liaison

RE: **An addendum to Mississippi J-1 Visa Waiver Policies and Procedures:
“State 30 Program” - FY 2002 GUIDELINES FOR SPECIALISTS ONLY**

The Office of Primary Care Liaison (OPCL), within the Office of State Health Officer, Bureau of Field Services has been designated as the Division to serve as a State Contact and clearinghouse for the above referenced program. OPCL will administer the program in a fair and consistent manner, as well as provide technical assistance to all interested in developing either the site predetermination or “actual” application for placement of a foreign-trained J-1 Visa Waiver provider. Attached please find the amended Mississippi J-1 Visa Waiver Policies and Procedures for the State 30 Program in regards to the placement of highly trained specialists.

Please note the changes/modifications to the MSDH J-1 Waiver Policies. THESE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES ARE EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

THE FOLLOWING IS IMPORTANT INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE J-1 WAIVER PROCESS:

- Health care facilities/sites interested in employing J-1 Visa Waiver SPECIALISTS **must** submit a written request to the Office of Primary Care Liaison for a **“Predetermination”, prior to developing their actual J-1 Visa Waiver Application.** The request, at a minimum, must include the items contained on the attached page, “Site Predetermination Application”. No action in regards to the predetermination will be taken prior to written submission of the application, to include supporting documentation. **NO INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED OVER THE TELEPHONE IN REGARDS TO THE APPLICATION PRIOR TO FINAL REVIEW BEING COMPLETED.**
- The review cycle should be completed within 180 days.
- **If** a favorable final determination is provided, your health care facility may request and receive technical assistance in developing a “full-blown” or “actual” application.
- Additionally, a non-refundable processing fee of **\$250.00** is required to process a State 30 Waiver application. A check or money order payable to the Mississippi State Department of Health should be submitted with the completed application/request. No requests will be processed without payment of the processing fee. All checks submitted with the “Site Predetermination Application” will be returned.
- The US Department of State requires that the J-1 Visa Waiver Data Sheet be submitted to the appropriate address contained in the Department’s policies, along with the \$230.00 user processing fee and two self-addressed, stamped, legal-size envelopes. A USIA file number will be assigned, and must be placed on each page within the actual application. The Department of State’s mailing address and a copy of their required data sheet is included in this packet.

If there are questions, please contact the Office of Primary Care at the number listed on this page.